

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
CONGRESSMAN TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 21, 2003

Contact: David Marin/Robert White
(202) 225-5074 / (202) 226-3498

Tom Davis, Jo Ann Davis Statement on House Budget Resolution

Washington, D.C. – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-Va.) and Civil Service and Agency Organization Subcommittee Chairwoman Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.) are pleased to announce that the budget resolution approved by the House early this morning fully protects the pensions of federal employees and retirees.

In a colloquy on the House floor last night, Chairman Davis received assurances from Budget Chairman Jim Nussle (R-Iowa) that the Government Reform Committee can meet its savings targets without touching the retirement benefits earned by public servants. Instead, the Committee will be credited with savings resulting from legislation that improves the efficiency and operations of the government, including legislation that achieves savings in discretionary programs.

The two members made the case to House Leadership that improvements to the federal procurement system and agency reorganization legislation can result in billions of dollars in savings to the government and taxpayers.

“Our committee has a clear plan for reducing waste, fraud and mismanagement in the federal government – a plan that will result in huge savings year in and year out,” Chairman Tom Davis said. “Achieving savings through procurement reform and agency reorganization makes a lot more sense than making drastic cuts in benefits to federal employees. I thank Chairman Nussle for agreeing to this compromise, which recognizes the need for fiscal restraint while simultaneously respecting what’s fair for federal employees and retirees.”

“This is a huge win for our hard-working federal employees,” Chairwoman Jo Ann Davis said. “We must move forward on balancing the budget, but we also must keep intact the pensions of federal employees and retirees. I thank Chairman Nussle for working with us on this matter.”

The budget resolution requires the Government Reform Committee to identify \$39 billion in savings over the next decade. As originally formulated, the resolution required this savings to

come from reductions in mandatory spending. The agreement forged by Chairmen Davis and Nussle allows the Committee to write legislation that “achieves significant savings in discretionary programs,” rather than mandatory programs. The Committee’s mandatory programs are primarily those that deal with employee pensions and benefits.

###